

Message Text

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TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: IAEA AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR

POWER PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING ARE MISSIONS'S COMMENTS ON
WORKING PAPER FOR AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY, MAIN SUBSTANCE OF
WHICH TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PAPER UNFORTUNATELY SUFFERS FROM FAULTY ENGLISH, POOR
ORGANIZATION, AND LACK OF CLARITY IN SEVERAL INSTANCES,
WHICH OCCASIONALLY REQUIRES MAKING AN EDUCATED GUESS
AS TO REAL INTENT OF AUTHOR. NEVERTHELESS,
IT OUTLINES WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE A REASONABLE
APPROACH FOR AGENCY TO FOLLOW, AND IT SHOULD PROVIDE
USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION BY HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS WHO
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WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN SUBJECT COMMITTEE. PROPOSED

PROGRAM SEEMS VERY AMBITIOUS TO US, PERHAPS OVERLY SO, BUT WE LEAVE IT TO EXPERTS TO JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT IT APPEARS REALISTICALLY ACHIEVABLE BY AGENCY IN TIME FRAME CONTEMPLATED. (EVEN IF IT DOES NOT RPT NOT, WE SEE NO RPT NO OTHER REASONABLE CHOICE BUT FOR AGENCY TO AT LEAST MAKE A START.) EXPERTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE THEIR OWN VIEWS, WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO REFINEMENTS AND POSSIBLY RESHAPING OF PROGRAM TO SOME EXTENT.

3. ONE GLARING DEFECT OF PAPER IS ITS STRESS THAT PROGRAM OUTLINED THEREIN IS ONLY INITIAL PHASE OF TOTAL PROGRAM, BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE ANY IDEA AS TO EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF THAT TOTAL PROGRAM. THIS PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE IRONED OUT AT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING. ON OTHER HAND, PAPER IS SUFFICIENTLY REALISTIC TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN TOPICS ON WHICH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ACHIEVE. INITIAL EFFORTS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE FOCUSED ON THOSE TOPICS WHICH ARE MORE PROMISING, AS FAR AS CHANCES OF OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ARE CONCERNED. MORE DIFFICULT ONES WOULD BE TAKEN UP LATER.

4. SINCE U.S. HAS CLEARLY LED WAY OVER MANY YEARS IN PREPARATION OF VOLUMINOUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS ENTIRE EXERCISE WILL DEPEND VERY HEAVILY INDEED ON U.S. EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE, SPECIFICALLY ON THE REGULATORY PROGRAM OF USAEC. IF PROGRAM IS TO STAND ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS, THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT AEC/REG MAINTAIN A STRONG AND CONTINUING INPUT AT ALL STAGES OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS INTERNATIONAL ROLE FOR AEC/REG WOULD AMOUNT TO "ENLIGHTENED SELF INTEREST," NOTWITHSTANDING ITS PRIMARY TASK OF DEALING WITH U.S. DOMESTIC PROGRAM, SINCE ITS ACTIVITIES AND U.S. NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IN GENERAL COULD BE SEVERELY SET-BACK BY A SINGLE SERIOUS ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POWER REACTOR ABROAD. THIS COULD CAUSE IRREPARABLE

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DAMAGE TO THE OVERALL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN U.S., AND ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS INVOLVING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. DEVELOPMENT OF IAEA SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL NOT RPT NOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE AGAINST SUCH AN ACCIDENT OCCURRING, BUT THEY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TOWARD REDUCING THAT POSSIBILITY. WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE OF NUMEROUS PRESSURES AND BURGEONING WORKLOAD ON AEC/REG PERSONNEL

IN ATTEMPTING TO DEAL SOLELY WITH U.S. DOMESTIC PROGRAM, AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT CAPACITIES OF AEC/REG MAY BE STRETCHED TO LIMIT IN ATTEMPTING ALSO TO PROVIDE REQUIRED INPUTS ON TIMELY BASIS FOR THIS AIEA EFFORT.

5. MISSION FORESEES ANOTHER PROBLEM IN CONNECTION THIS EXERCISE, NAMELY, AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR U.S. EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY MEETINGS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED. WE BELIEVE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENT "COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS" FROM CONTRIBUTIONS-IN-KIND FOR 1974 TO COVER ALL PHASES OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM THROUGH REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NEXT YEAR. SINCE THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE AN INCREASE IN TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCY'S GENERAL FUND FOR 1975, THIS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN CASH COMPONENT OF U.S. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS NEXT YEAR, AND A CONSEQUENT REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF FUNDS REMAINING FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS-IN-KIND, FROM WHICH COST-FREE EXPERTS ARE FUNDED. (U.S. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO IAEA ARE INCLUDED IN AID APPROPRIATION.) THIS, IN TURN, WILL REQUIRE REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS NORMALLY MADE AVAILABLE FOR SOME OR ALL IN-KIND COMPONENTS, I.E., TYPE II FELLOWSHIPS, EQUIPMENT GRANTS, TRAINING COURSES OR STUDY TOURS, AND COST-FREE EXPERTS. WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COST-FREE EXPERTS THAT ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH NEXT YEAR'S PHASE OF AGENCY'S PROGRAM FOR PRODUCING SAFETY AND RELIABILITY GUIDELINES, WE FEAR THAT CONSEQUENT CUTS IN OTHER IN-KIND COMPONENTS WOULD GO MUCH TOO DEEP IF THIS INCREASE IN COST-FREE EXPERTS MUST BE ACCOMMODATED FROM WITHIN OUR CONTRIBUTIONS-
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IN-KIND FOR 1975. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD JEOPARDIZE AGENCY'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN BALANCED REGULAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY GUIDELINES IN DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES, AND COULD CAUSE US SERIOUS TROUBLE. IT MAY BE NECESSARY, THEREFORE, TO EXPLORE SOME OTHER MEANS OF FINANCING TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF THOSE U.S. EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN THE VARIOUS MEETINGS THAT WILL BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EXERCISE DURING 1975. WE WILL BE TAKING CLOSER LOOK AT THIS PROBLEM AS SOON AS AGENCY'S PROGRAM IS BETTER DEFINED. PORTER

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